

ABSTRACT

The objects of the present invention are to provide thermoplastic elastomers which retain an excellent recyclability while also having an excellent mechanical strength, particularly an excellent compression set, and to provide thermoplastic elastomer compositions which include such thermoplastic elastomers. These objects are achieved by the thermoplastic elastomers and thermoplastic elastomer compositions described below. One thermoplastic elastomer of the present invention is a hydrogen-bondable thermoplastic elastomer composed of an elastomeric polymer having, on side chains, carbonyl-containing groups and imidazole rings, which rings bear a hydrogen atom on a nitrogen atom and also bear an alkyl, aralkyl or aryl group. Another thermoplastic elastomer of the present invention is a thermoplastic polymer having side chains of a given structural formula that contain a carbonyl group and an imino group. The inventive thermoplastic elastomer compositions are compositions which include such thermoplastic elastomers.